Message Text

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R 271315Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY SANA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4261 INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PEPR, YE

SUBJ: YARG VIEWS ON RECENT LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS

1. AFTER WEEK OF TRYING TO OBTAIN APPOINTMENT WITH FONMIN ABDALLAH AL-ASNAJ, I WAS FINALLY RECEIVED ON MORNING OF MARCH 25 BY HIS DEPUTY, AHMED MOHAMMAD HAYDAR. LATTER APOLOGIZED ON BEHALF OF FONMIN WHO, HE SAID, HAD BEEN VERY BUSY DURING PAST WEEK IN COORDINATING WITH OTHER ARAB MODERATES RE PREPARATIONS FOR AN ARAB SUMMIT. HAYDAR CONTINUED THAT ASNAJ PRESENTLY IN CAIRO PUSHING THE IDEA FOR AN ARAB SUMMIT, WHICH WOULD DISCUSS NOT ONLY CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON BUT ALSO THE ARAB/ISRAELI QUESTION AS A WHOLE AS WELL AS A COMMON ARAB POSITION TO FACE THESE PROBLEMS.

2. I EMPHASIZED TO HAYDAR USG'S STRONG INTENTION TO PERSEVERE IN TRYING TO FIND A COMPREHENSIVE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME STRESSING USG'S COMMITMENT TO AN EARLY WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI TROOPS FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON. HAYDAR REPLIED THAT YARG DEEPLY APPRECIATES USG'S POSITIONS ON THESE TWO ISSUES AND SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT ONLY HOPES THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL BE ABLE ON AN URGENT BASIS NOT ONLY TO BRING ABOUT AN EARLY WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI TROOPS FROM LEBANON BUT ALSO A COMPRECONFIDENTIAL

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HENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE AREA. OTHERWISE, THE EXTREMISTS IN THE AREA AND, THEIR RUSSIAN PATRONS WILLBENEFIT TO THE LOSS OF THE UNITED STATES AND ALL ARAB MODERATES. SCOTES

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